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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2001 LB 640

process of that planning. LB 640 separately names the Commission Grant Program and creates a new aid program to counties under the act called the County Juvenile Services Aid Program. To be eligible to participate in either the Commission Grant Program or the County Juvenile Services Aid Program, counties must develop and adopt a comprehensive juvenile services plan and submit the plan to the Office of Juvenile Services, or OJS. The presiding judge of the juvenile court must concur with any part of the plan that deals with administration procedures or programs of the court. The bill limits annual General Fund appropriations for the County Juvenile Services Aid Program to \$4 million and sets aside \$500,000 of that amount for planning grants to counties to help with the development of their plans. OJS is required to develop or contract for the development of a statewide system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plans being funded under the Commission Grant Program and the County Juvenile Services Aid Program. Aid must be equitably apportioned to counties based on a formula adopted by OJS in rule and regulation, and must be used to help counties establish and provide community-based services for juvenile offenders. A 40 percent local match from "nonstate" funds is required. All funds must be used to assist counties...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...in providing the funds identical in their comprehensive juvenile services plan, including programs for assessment and evaluation, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, detention, shelter care, intensive juvenile probational services, restitution, family support system, and family group counseling. Aid cannot be used for construction of secure detention facilities, secure youth treatment facilities, or secure youth confinement facilities. Aid cannot be used to replace or supplant existing juvenile services funded by the county. As an accountability measure or to ensure that the juveniles are given the least restrictive placement possible, the bill provides that aid to the county will be reduced by cost to the state of caring for juveniles who are assessed to be appropriate for a less restrictive level of placement, but who are committed to OJS for placement at a YRTC or a more